

'THE NUTCRACKER' RETURNS



LAMPING PHOTOGRAPHY

LEFT: Anita Barbic dances the role of Arabian Princess. Barbic is from Warrenton and is a senior at Seaside High School. She has been dancing since age 4. **MIDDLE:** Maia Mahoney, 18, of Warrenton, is a senior at Astoria High School and plays one of the Russian Dancers. She has been in "The Nutcracker" every year since she was 7. Mahoney is also featured this year as the Snow Princess. **RIGHT:** Dancing the role of Clara this season is 17-year-old Nara Van De Grift. She is a junior at Astoria High School, where she also excels in soccer and track. The role of Clara is a dream for many little girls, and it is not unusual to have 24 girls audition for the part. Van De Grift has been dancing since she was 3.

Little Ballet Theatre brings holiday classic to life Dec. 2 and 3

By **PATTY HARDIN**
FOR COAST WEEKEND

Holiday magic and tradition will come alive once again for audiences young and old when Maddox Dance Studio's Little Ballet Theatre presents "The Nutcracker" on Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 2 and 3, at Astoria High School.

Jeanne Peterson, owner and artistic director of the Warrenton studio, has a deep respect for tradition. "That's what keeps us going, how 'The Nutcracker' means so much to people," she said.

The ballet, set to the music of Tchaikovsky, is based on German writer E.T.A. Hoffman's origi-

nal story "The Nutcracker and the Mouse King."

The tale begins with the Stahlbaum family welcoming friends and relatives into their home for their annual Christmas party.

A mysterious party guest presents Clara with a special gift: a nutcracker shaped like a soldier. Clara is delighted with the gift, and devastated when her little brother, Fritz, grabs the nutcracker and breaks its jaw.

Dr. Drosselmeyer mends the nutcracker with a kerchief and dries Clara's tears. The guests take their leave and the family heads upstairs to bed.

Clara slips downstairs to hold her injured Nutcracker. She is frightened by giant mice

IF YOU GO

What: "The Nutcracker"

Where: Astoria High School

When: 2 and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 2; 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 3

General Admission: \$21 for adults, \$16 for children ages 12 and under and for seniors age 65 and over

Reserved seating: \$31 and \$51

Reserved and general admission tickets available at the Liberty Theatre box office

General admission tickets also available at Maddox Dance Studio and at the door of Astoria High School